

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for claim 10 is found on page 26, line 11 of the specification. Support for claim 11 is found on page 17, lines 11-16 of the specification. Support for claim 12 is found on page 17, lines 1-3 of the specification. Support for claim 13 is found on page 17, lines 11-14 of the specification. Support for claim 14 is found on page 17, lines 19-22 of the specification. Support for claims 15-16 is found on page 18, lines 2-6 of the specification. Support for claim 17 is found on page 18, lines 7-10 and page 20, lines 20-22 of the specification. Support for claim 18 is found on page 22, lines 6-12 of the specification. Support for claims 19 and 20 is found on page 22, lines 13-17 of the specification. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 will now be active in this application with Claims 1-8 and 10-20 being under active consideration.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention is directed to a hair cosmetic composition.

The rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over PGPUB US 2004/0156815 and PGPUB US 2004/0157984 are respectfully traversed.

Each of U.S. '815 and U.S. '984 were published on August 12, 2004, after Applicants' U.S. filing date of April 16, 2004. Each of U.S. '815 and U.S. '984 have a U.S. filing date of December 2, 2003.

Applicants have respectfully requested the benefit to priority to Japanese patent application JP 2003-112270 filed on **April 17, 2003**, a date before the December 2, 2003 U.S. filing date of the cited references. In order to perfect applicants' claim to priority, applicants enclose herewith a certified English translation of JP 2003-112270. A certified copy of JP

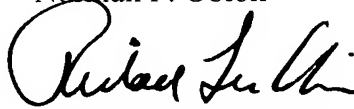
2003-112270 was filed with the U.S. Patent Office on April 16, 2004. Applicants respectfully request the full benefit of priority to JP 2003-112270.

As applicants' priority date **is before** the U.S. filing dates of each of U.S. '815 and U.S. '984, neither reference is believed to be available as prior art against the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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